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The Secret

HISTORY

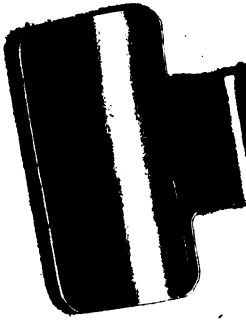
OF

Arlus and *Odolphus*,

Chief Miniſters of State to the

Empreſs of *Grandinſula*.

Price 6 *d*.



The Secret

HISTORY

OF

Arlus and *Odolphus*,

Ministers of State to the

Empress of *Grandinsula*.

In which are discover'd the Labour'd Artifices formerly us'd for the Removal of ARLUS, and the true Causes of his late *Restoration*, upon the *Dismission* of ODOLPHUS and the QUINQUINVIRATE.

Humbly offer'd to those Good People of GRANDINSULA, who have not yet done wond'ring, why that PRINCESS *wou'd Change so Notable a Ministry.*

In nova fert animus mutatas dicere Formas
Corpora———

Printed in the Year, MDCCX.

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A Word with the Reader.

THIS Hiſtory being writ originally by a Native of Grandinſula, *in the Language of that Country, and deſign'd only for the Uſe and Information of its Inhabitants, you are deſir'd not to be ſurprix'd, if it falls immediately upon the Buſineſs in hand, without giving you the leaſt Account of the Clime, Soil, Government, Prince, or People of that* ſtrange Iſland. *Therefore if upon Peruſal of the Title-page you find your ſelf in the dark, whiſper the firſt Honeſt Gentleman you meet (whom you will now eaſily diſtin-*

guiſh by a certain new Life in his Looks) and you will be ſet right in a moment: But, if this Book's in your Hand, don't enquire at St. James's Coffee-houſe, *leſt you ſhould meet with a ſurly Anſwer.*

THE

THE Secret Hiſtory, &c.

'TIS now about ſeventy Years, ſince one Half of our Grandfathers firſt buckl'd on their ruſty Armour againſt t'other, for the Good of their King, and their Country; ſuch was the original Pretence, on both ſides, but our Hiſtories make no mention (when one of thoſe Sides got uppermoſt) that either their King or their Country were the better for it: However the ſame loyal Diſpute ſeems to be intail'd on their Poſterity, only with this Difference, that *They* back'd their Arguments with Blows, and *We* that have more Wit, only Rail, and call Names, or (if we can write) ſhew our Courage and Conduct by ſpilling our Parts upon Paper: And while there are ſuch unfortunate Words in our Language, as *Hereditary, Limited, Reſiſtance, Paſſive, Agrarian Laws, High Boys, Low Church, No Church, &c.* I don't ſee why our Neighbours may not think us a very merry People for t'other thirty Years of the Hundred to come.

I know

I know not whether my being a little more ſerious upon the matter will convince either Side, that while they ſo tenaciouſly keep up their Diſtinction of Parties, they embaraſs and reſtrain perhaps the moſt Uncorrupt Miniſters in their honeſt Endeavours for the common Intereſt: But 'tis certain this fermented Folly is ſo prevalent, that now no *Stateſmen* can propoſe to ſupport themſelves, that are not openly at the Head of a Party, in defence of whoſe Principles they muſt declare themſelves reſolv'd to ſtand or fall: And what makes their Game more difficult, is, that in ſpite of their utmoſt Prudence or Fidelity, different Factions will take their ſeperate Shelters under them; which Monſters, when they are the leaſt heated, naturally throw the Venom of their equally deteſted Principles on their innocent and perhaps unwilling Protectors.

The neareſt Friends of *Odolphus* will be apt to allow this Truth, it being the only ſeeming Loop-hole through which an Excuſe can be convey'd for his ſhrewdly ſuſpicious procuring an Edict call'd, *An Act of Security*, &c. which put Swords into the Hands of many of the Empreſs's Back-Friends *at home*, to be ready *(in caſe they had a mind to it)* to oppoſe her expected Enemies from *abroad*.

This bold Stroke of *Odolphus* ſo naturally rous'd the Loyal Party againſt him, that we muſt not wonder if they loſt all Temper, from their juſt Apprehenſion of the Conſequence: Nothing leſs than calling him to the *Tribunal* wou'd appeaſe them, and his Head was reſolv'd the Forfeit of his Perfidy!

These Measures, however Just, were at that Juncture too precipitately taken to be safely executed, there being then an absolute Necessity of preserving a Union in the Senate, for raising the requisite Funds for an unavoidable War, of which the Ferment of such a Prosecution must have too far hazarded the Delay: Besides, the Penetrating *Arlus* (whose Resentment and Temper are in utter Subjection to his Judgment) too well knew the Frighted *Odolphus*, under such impending Danger, wou'd soon bring his Principles to drop the *Loyalists*, (whom he then pretended to Head) and call in the *Levellers* to sustain him: He that cou'd delude his Mistress into the Passing so *Insidious* a Law, *Arlus* foresaw wou'd not want new Friends or Interest to give it what Colour of Integrity he pleas'd, to the Disappointment of his Accusers; or to make sure Work might bury it under a General Pardon for ever. For which Reasons he thought it proper to Pause on the Resentful Resolutions of the *Loyalists*; and when he found no Arguments cou'd dissuade them from so Hazardous, and Unseasonable an Attempt, he rather chose to lye under the Pain of their Suspicion, for a Season, by discountenancing their Measures, than, by an unprofitable Proof of his Fidelity to their Interest, joyn in so palpable a Risque of ruining it for ever.

We may believe of Course the *Loyalists* were not a little Disgusted at *Arlus*'s not espousing their Quarrel, which from the sure and speedy Counter-measures of *Odolphus* they were soon oblig'd to drop; some from their Just Opinion of *Arlus*'s Judgment allowing their Error,

Error, and others of less Temper revilling him, as the Betrayer of his Friends, and Party: But Time has since blown over that Cloud, and prov'd him the Sincere, the Indefatigable Friend, and Bulwark, of their *Cause* and *Interest*.

The Subtle *Odolphus* then perceiving the Attack intended against him, was (as *Arlus* foresaw) under no long Debate, what Course he should take to secure himself: He knew the restless Ambition of the *Levellers* had kept 'em long gaping in a parching Thirst of Government; he knew, that Power was their God, and Profit their Religion, for whose dear Support their pliant Principles wou'd on this *Occasion* allow them to *Conform*: Upon which he immediately threw open the Doors of Preferment, and let in their whole Faction, every Man to Pick and Chuse for himself; some pleas'd their Pride, and took what we call a Feather, others thought their Reign was to last for ever, and judg'd the best Income the best Post; but the Merry and Wise humbly contented themselves with Patent Places for Life.

Thus surrounded with his New Friends the Secure *Odolphus* seem'd to have got a very distant Start of his Danger, but——

Rarò antecedentem scelestum
Deseruit pede Pœna claudo.

And as 'tis the Common Policy of Usurpers to begin their Reigns with Lenity, and Wholesome Laws, so very little cou'd be charg'd upon their Conduct, till they were through-

throughly settled in their Posts, and so far *Arlus* went quietly into their Measures, not without fore-seeing, that when they were once lull'd into an indolent Confidence of their Security, they wou'd soon break out into all the Insolence of uncontested Power, and plainly prove themselves (what they have publickly own'd they wou'd Dethrone the Empress for attempting to be) Rulers of Unlimited Sway—— An Ambition, which only in themselves was pardonable; but such has ever been the Folly of Mankind.

Cælum ipsum petimus Stultitiâ; neque
Per Nostrum patimur scelus
Iracunda Jovem ponere Fulmina.

'Twill be here necessary to inform you that what made *Odolphus*'s Project of Joyning the *Levellers* more practicable, was, his Ancient, and Firm Alliance with *Fortunatus*, which they had solemnly Seal'd with the Union of their Families: How far their Personal Inclinations might contribute to their Friendship I can't determine, but they were both Wise enough to know, that as they had the Greatest Posts in the Government, (and those so immediately Useful to one another) they were the only Men, between whom a Right Understanding was absolutely Necessary for the Mutual Support of their Interest, or Ambition: For as *Odolphus* was Lord High Keeper of the Treasure, (for which sort of Trash the Provident Commander had from his Youth an irresistable *Tendre*) he knew, while he had the unaccounted Disposal of it, he shou'd always

keep him firm to his Interest; so on the other Hand *Fortunatus*, having the sole Conduct of the War, wisely consider'd, that if he did not Husband it well, there wou'd be no farther Occasion for the Annual Effusion of Taxes, nor Pretence for the sweet Article of Secret Service in the Accounts of *Odolphus*; so that we are not to wonder, if our first Advantagious Offers of Peace after the Battle of *Aramilia* were privately sunk, and could not (ev'n with the Empresses Direction) be brought to a Treaty (of which Fact I shall anon speak more at large) Nor is it more surprizing, when they cou'd not avoid coming to the last Years Treaty, that *Odolphus* directed his Party to Address the Empress, that *Fortunatus* might immediately be dispatch'd with full Power, if he thought fit——— to break it off.

I must confess, when we consider the natural Frailty of Mankind, we shou'd not wonder if a Man of the most *Liberal Spirit*, under the strong Temptation of such Immense Advantages from the War, shou'd be a little Cool in his Endeavours to procure a Lasting Peace. But from one, whom even his Friends allow of so *Contrary* a Disposition, ('twou'd seem hard to give it its right Name) what can the most favourable Judgment, or shortest Insight hope? Can we expect Health of Virtue from a Consumptive Mind? That so Insatiable a Passion shou'd refuse its natural Food to Starve on the thin Diet of an airy Praise, while it gains even Increase of Appetite from Feeding? Are we to treat that Vice in every other Man with Suspicion, Ill Wishes, and Contempt,

and

and think it not only Pardonable, but Worthy of the Higheſt Truſt in him? 'Twou'd look like taking pleaſure in the Inſult to continue this Argument, that is ſo unequally Superior to any Force of Truth, that can be urg'd againſt it, I ſhall therefore quit the Orator for the Hiſtorian, and let Matters of Fact make their own uncommented Impreſſions — But I beg pardon, I muſt firſt ask leave to take up a ſeeming Objection, that I left behind me, which may be (if what is urg'd were true) what cou'd engage him to be ſo ſincere in his many ſignal Victories o'er our Enemies? from the leaſt of which we concluded a Peace was unavoidable?—— Right! we concluded ſo, but we concluded wrong; he perhaps ſaw farther; the War, we find, has made a ſhift ſome Years to out-live our Hopes of it, which 'tis poſſible we may in ſome Meaſure owe to his prudent Conduct, of laying the *Cauſe* of the War in one Country, and the *Seat* of it in another, where our Conqueſts have got us more Honour, than Profit; And (no Diſpraiſe to our Proweſs) I am afraid that is not altogether the *Gouſt* of our Country: The Command of an Army in the Country where our Enemy has been able to loſe ſo many Battles, has been always look'd on as Proviſion for Life even of the moſt Victorious Generals. Let them be never ſo Succeſsful they are ſure not to fight themſelves out of their Poſts, unleſs they are too Raſh in expoſing their Perſons: There's a Barrier of ſtubborn Towns will find Work enough for the Wiſeſt of 'em, and they may hold their Commiſſions there by a double Tenure, not only that of a

Quamdiu, but even a *Quanquam sexbine gesserint.*

Now in the Country we are Fighting *For* the Cafe alters extreamly; An Army half as well Provided *There*, might have ended our Business, before a Man could have half done his own: Which I hope won't be thought an unreasonable Position, since we find that the very *Poor* One we *have* there, under the Conduct of a Man, whose Youth yet knows no better, than preferring his Honour to his Interest, has at last given the Enemy a Blow, from which we have as much Reason to Hope, as from any they have yet receiv'd, the Glorious Prize we have been Fighting for——

But farther——

Supposing our repeated Successes in the other Country cou'd possibly have ended the War on that Side, have no Counter-steps been made even *there*, that might mislead us to think *Fortunatus* was himself in some Apprehension it *wou'd* have ended there? Was the last Years Bloody Battle so well Concerted, as it might have been? Was it so absolutely Necessary to Ray two Days within Sight of the Enemy, for a few Troops that never Engag'd when they came, and give 'em so much Time to throw up such unequal Fortresses before we Attack'd them? Was ever Battle in the Memory of Man fought under such Tremendous and Avoidable Disadvantages? Might not one think too he look'd on *Argilius* as the Rising Favourite of Fame, and sent him on rather as a Sacrifice, than a Soldier, tho' the more Merciful Hand of Providence preserv'd, and brought him back the Victorious and Intrepit

Rival

Rival of his Glory? Did the utmost Success we cou'd hope for promise us an Equivalent to the Tithe of the Bloody Price we were sure to pay for it? Never; I grant, in all the Wars of immemorial Time, was there a Battle fought, where mortal Men gain'd such immortal and unprofitable Honour.—And how far the honest View of Peace might be consider'd in such an Attempt, is submitted to the Breast of every impartial Reader. — Here I must beg leave to return from this Excursion to the foremention'd Particulars of the secret Causes of our first Offers of Peace being smother'd after the Battle of *Aramilia*.

Arlus, who was then Chief Secretary, *&c.* having soon after receiv'd from a Minister of our chief Allies such full Conditions of Peace propos'd to them from our Grand Enemy, as would have wholly answer'd the End of our War, immediately communicated them to *Fortunatus* and *Odolphus*: But the cold Reception they gave them exceeded even his Suspicion of their Integrity; all he could urge could not raise them to consider 'em more than meer artificial Amusements of the Enemy, of no Solidity or Signification; and as such, with an over-bearing Air of their superior Penetration, they wholly neglected them: This was enough to convince the vigilant *Arlus*, that the Hurry of their own unfinish'd Fortunes would as yet give them but little Leisure to attend the remoter Service of their Country, which he, having nothing more at heart, resolv'd, at the hazard of breaking with them, to pursue, by offering himself, unseconded, the said Proposals to the Em-

preſs, whoſe natural Tenderneſs of her People's Welfare he knew wou'd incline her to a better Thought of them, which the intire Satisfaction ſhe expreſs'd, upon hearing them, ſoon confirm'd: For whatever Reaſons ſhe might have from her Enemies Artifices in former Treaties to ſuſpect him of Inſincerity at this time; yet ſhe *Now* conſider'd him as a Prince whoſe Pride from long Succeſſes had made more impatient of his new Diſgrace, as one allarm'd and ſtartled at his inſulted Arms, and, at that Juncture, accumulated Blows of Fortune; his Treaſure low, his Credit ſunk, his People murmuring, his unpaid Troops diſpirited, the Rival of his Grandſon's Throne then juſt entring his *Metropolis*, his critical Defeat in the *South*, with the vaſt Towns and Territories falling from him after the Battle of *Aramilia*, and theſe *at once* ſurrounding him, might reaſonably ſhake the proudeſt wiſe Monarch into a ſincere Deſire of Peace. But if a Suſpicion only of his Sincerity muſt be a ſtanding Reaſon for our rejecting a Treaty, the War might probably laſt till only thoſe Great Patriots would find their account in a Peace: Yet when they thought theſe ſmother'd Propoſals had ſecur'd them againſt the Danger of it, they receiv'd, to their great Aſtoniſhment, the Empreſs's Directions to bring them to the ſpeedieſt Iſſue. This unforeſeen Allarm rous'd 'em immediately into an inſuppreſſible Jealouſy of *Arlus*; they could not bear this Inſult of their Pride, this direct Invaſion of their Power and Intereſt with the Empreſs —And from this Criſis began their firſt determin'd Reſolution to undo him.

But

But as the former Practices of *Odolphus* had thrown him into the hands of the *Levellers* for Protection, ſo now he durſt not enter upon any Meaſures of moment without their Approbation. Therefore under the Conſternation of theſe unexpected Orders, he haſtned to his Directors the *Quinquinvirate* (a Set of *ſelf-choſen* Men, that had form'd themſelves into a Repreſentative Body of their whole Faction) who after they had taken into conſideration the preſumptuous, uncommiſſion'd Fidelity of *Arlus*, and the conſtant, implicit Compliance of *Odolphus* to their unconteſted Power, unanimouſly

"Reſolv'd, That *Arlus* was an appa-
" rent Invader of the Empreſs's good
" Opinion and Favour, and had clande-
" ſtinely endeavour'd to ſerve his Prince
" and Country, with an utter Diſregard
" to their more loyal Schemes of eaſing
" her Imperial Majeſty, by voluntarily
" taking on themſelves the burthenſome
" Fatigue of governing the Nation.

To accompliſh which Juſt and Humble Deſign, it was farther

" Reſolv'd, That an immediate Sup-
" ply of Suggeſtions, Inſinuations, falſe
" Arguments, and Pretences, not ex-
" ceeding two Words of Truth, ſhould
" be given to *Odolphus*, for carrying on
" their Reſentment againſt *Arlus*, with
" the utmoſt Vigour, in order to his
" ſpeedy Removal from Court, and her
" Majeſty's Preſence for ever.

Now

Now this Matter requiring Haſte, and *Odolphus* perceiving ſome of the *Quinquinvirates* Brains a little ſlow in paying their Quota's of Invention, ventur'd, upon the Credit of their Vote, to advance out of his own private Head whatever Inſinuations were wanting to the carrying on ſo neceſſary a Work.

Thus animated with the full Power of his Commiſſion, he march'd directly to the Empreſs, whom approaching (as uſual) with an intrepid Reſpect, he gave to underſtand, that her Reſolution was inveſted, from which he was not to retire, till he had reduc'd her Reaſon to ſurrender to his Diſcretion. The Empreſs forewarn'd of his Approach, ſtood without the leaſt Surprize, or Confuſion, to receive him. *Odolphus*, after ſome little Pauſe, ſeeming half recover'd from a ſuppreſs'd Reſentment, addreſs'd her to this effect:

"It is not with more Surprize, Madam, "than Concern, that I find it in any Man's "Power to ſuperſede the favourable Confi- "dence your Majeſty has been pleaſed to "place in my long and conſtant Endeavours "to ſerve you. Had the late invalid Propo- "ſals of Peace been (as they are maliciouſly "repreſented) worth your Thoughts of a "Treaty, from what ſuſpected Action of my "Life cou'd your Majeſty ſuppoſe, I ſhou'd "not have been foremoſt in adviſing it?— "But my Concern, Madam, is not only for "my ſelf; the Malice has gone higher, and "*Fortunatus* too is loaded with the ſame inſi- "nuated Crime of clandeſtinely endeavour- "ing to perpetuate the War. Now, Madam,

"tho'

"tho' the ſecret Ambition of ſome too near
"your Majeſty's Perſon had prevail'd to lay
"*Me* under the Diſhonour of this hard Suſpi-
"cion; methinks the ſuperior Judgment, Ser-
"vices, and Merit of *Fortunatus* might have
"at leaſt protected *Him* from ſo ungrateful an
"Aſperſion——The Malice muſt be more
"than Human ſure, that could render *Him*
"ſuſpected. For *Me*, alas! I can but ſerve
"you with my Vigilance and humble Coun-
"ſel,—and therefore may be ſpar'd—But *He*,
"whoſe abler Head and Arm have both ſo
"well deſerv'd of you, whoſe glorious Vi-
"ctories have *retriev'd* the Nation's Honour,
"whoſe Penetration and Addreſs is at once
"the Life and Cement of your Confederacy,
"whoſe Services his grateful Country have
"confeſs'd in ſuch Profuſion of their Bounty,
"as have fixt him ſure above the abject
"Thought of being at once the *Hero* and the
"*Merchant* of the War —— And that your
"Majeſty ſhou'd e'er be wrought by *Arlus*,
"or any other Incendiary, into a ſtaggering
"Thought of *His* Integrity, I confeſs ama-
"zes me! —— How can you receive him?
"With what Concern muſt he approach you?
"I own he wants no Senſe of Duty, but has
"an equal Senſe of Honour too——How
"then can you expect him eaſy under ſo
"injurious a Return for his Fidelity? ——
"What muſt be the Conſequence?—I own,
"Madam, I am at a loſs to ſerve you.—

Here in ſome ſeeming Diſorder he broke off, and the Empreſs, whoſe natural Humanity inclines her (where there is the leaſt

room for it) to be favourable in her Opinion, made him this Reply.

" My Lord, I need no Arguments to per-
" ſuade me into a juſt Opinion of *Fortunatus*'s
" Merit or Fidelity, nor I hope have ever gi-
" ven you cauſe to think your own ſuſpect-
" ed; and if I have differ'd with Him or
" you in my Opinion of the Propoſals you
" mention, I ſee no Reaſon why it ſhould
" throw the leaſt Reflection upon either of
" you. One of our Opinions muſt be right,
" perhaps 'tis yours, which had you thought
" fit to offer me, 'tis poſſible I might have
" given up my own. Yet I muſt tell you,
" if I now throw theſe Propoſals by, both
" *Fortunatus*, and your ſelf ought to take it as
" an Inſtance of my implicite Confidence of
" your Judgment and Fidelity: But if you
" think that *Arlus* has ſecretly endeavour'd to
" render you ſuſpected, you do him wrong;
" nor can I be pleas'd to hear any one call'd
" an Incendiary, whoſe Services and Inte-
" grity have ſo well deſerv'd my Favour and
" Diſtinction. Theſe Jealouſies among your
" ſelves, my Lord, muſt render me unſafe:
" For the Sincerity of *Arlus* I'll ſtand my ſelf
" engag'd, and think I may for yours—See
" him, my Lord, on this Occaſion:——
" Comply ſo far with me—— Suſpend your
" Suſpicions, and I doubt not when you meet
" you will yet preſerve the uſual Harmony in
" your Councils, that has made this Iſland
" terrible to its Enemies: For 'tis ſtrange that
" Men of your Wiſdom, who equally intend
" your Prince and Country's Service, ſhou'd

" ſo

" ſo unaccountably differ on the *Means* of " doing it.—— Pray conſider of it.

This ſteddy and unexpected Declaration in favour of *Arlus* now more confirm'd *Odolphus* in the Neceſſity of making his utmoſt and immediate Effort to unhinge him, when drawing up his ſolemn Features into an Air of inflexible Reſolution, he thus proceeded:

" The Union of your Miniſters, Madam, is " of ſuch eſſential Conſequence to your Inte- " reſt, that it admits indeed of no Delay to " eſtabliſh it: But I muſt needs ſay we are " unfortunate, that your Majeſty ſhou'd at " this time ſo widely differ with your People " in your Opinion of *Arlus*——'Tis not " this his laſt Inſinuation only, but his many " other ſecret Attempts to obſtruct their " warmeſt Meaſures in your Service, that " have long diſturb'd their Councils.—— To " ſpeak plainly, Madam, he is obnoxious to " them.—— Nor indeed can I longer think " my ſelf ſafe, or anſwer for their uſual Zeal " and Submiſſion, while he is continued in " his Office, or ſo near your Majeſty's Per- " ſon; and not only from my own, but their " greater Uneaſineſs, I am preſs'd to make " this cloſe Remonſtance.—— Madam, his " Removal or mine is unavoidable: For your " Majeſty cannot but know my Power of " ſerving you utterly depends on their Sup- " port, and this Staff without them would be " a uſeleſs Triſle in my Hand. Therefore ſince " I have worn it hitherto with Honour, I " muſt beg leave, when I am no longer ſure

" of Friends to follow it, to lay it at your Ma-
" jesty's Feet.

This Plain-dealing Speech, tho' it had more the Stile of a menacing Embassador, than a Subject, did not however make the Empress so far lose her Natural Clemency of Temper, as yet to take the just Advantage of this Offer, which she well knew he must repent of; she therefore told him, if he expected she should answer him as his Sovereign, she found her self oblig'd to accept of his Surrender'd Staff, and which she wou'd immediately take, if he still insisted on the Removal of *Atlus*: But, as she was his Friend too, she advis'd him to a Second Thought, and, with an affable Smile, half insisted on his keeping it, till she shou'd think his Resigning it more Necessary to her Service——— and then retir'd.

Odolphus thus Unsuccessful in his Expedition went himself Express with the News of his Defeat to the *Quinquinvirate*, to whom he recited the full Particulars of the Action, not forgetting his narrow Escape in recovering his Staff, which in the Heat of his Courage was once quite out of his Hand: But those Undaunted *Patriots* resolving never to admit of any Terms, but the Unconditional Surrender of *Atlus* to their Mercy, immediately Voted the Siege to be renew'd, and that the Trumpet of their Power, the Lady *Hautisara* shou'd be dispatch'd to Summon the Empress's Compliance, upon Refusal of which the Irresistible *Fortunatus* had Orders to Storm.

Before I recite what pass'd between the Empress and *Hautisara*, it will be necessary to give

give ſome ſhort Sketch of that Lady's Temper, leaſt upon reading thoſe Particulars you ſhou'd think her more Diſtracted, than ſhe really is; To ſay the Worſt of her then at once, She is one of thoſe Unhappy Women to whom Good Fortune is inſupportable, and, had ſhe never Succeeded to more than ſhe was Born to, might have made a much better Figure in a Private Family, than her Exaltation will in Hiſtory. But it has been her Misfortune from a *Tedious* Poſſeſſion of her Miſtreſs's Favour, to be Intoxicated with Pride, Power, and Profit, the Spirit of which is viſible in every Limb of her, when ever ſhe puts her ſelf into Motion; and I appeal to thoſe Honeſt Holyday Gentlewomen, who think it no Diſgrace on a Sunday to climb a Table behind the Tall Guards for a Sight of their Sovereign, if they have not ſeen this ſame Lady come ſaunt'ring alone, before the Ceremony from Church, with her Noſe in the Air, her Eyes unthinkingly fix'd upon Nothing, negligently ſearching her Pocket for Sweetmeats, as if it were a Wrong to her *Grandeur* to regard that vulgar Reſerve of Motion, which the Natural Modeſty of the Sex uſually awes them into, when they occaſionally attract the Eyes of a Multitude? Or, if it cou'd be ſuppos'd at ſuch a Time ſhe had any Thought at all, might it not be imagin'd from the Indolence of her Port, and Air, ſhe were then ſaying to her ſelf —— Lawrd! "how theſe Creatures love to gape at any "thing, that is but an Empreſs; and yet what "a Figure ſhe'd make, if my Spouſe did not "every Year fooliſhly venture his catching "Cold at the Head of her A—y? But, *ex*

Pede

Pede Herculem —— And now 'tis time to introduce her to the Empreſs in relation to *Arlus*: We muſt ſuppoſe, before ſhe enter'd, the Secret of his being heav'd at was whiſper'd all about the Court, and that *Fortunatus*'s Diſcontent at his being yet Continued had already reach'd the Empreſs's Ear, which laſt gave her more ſerious Thoughts, than all that *Odolphus* had been able to urge againſt him: And now in comes the Important *Hautiſara* to heighten the Allarm; who after ſhe had drawl'd out a thouſand Diſtant Hints to Engage the Empreſs upon that Subject, at laſt Learnedly broke out to this Politick Purpoſe—

"Lawrd! Madam, how can your Majeſty let Things run to theſe Extremities? "You ſee how they declare againſt him—— "You know I told you of this, and are your "Affairs now in a Condition to diſoblige ſuch "People?—— You know, Madam, I never "adviſ'd you Wrong in my Life —— And "poſitively you can never be ſafe but in their "Hands—— You find what an Intereſt they "have both at Home, and Abroad—— You "ſee what they do for you—— What a per"fect Underſtanding they have with the "*Froglanders*—— What vaſt Summs they give "you, and how *plainly* they diſpoſe of 'em, "and yet you will break with 'em!—— "Lawrd! what can one do for you?—— "I have talk'd with my Lord *Fortunatus* too, "till he has really given me the Vapours—— "He poſitively ſays he can't go on— Things "are all in Diſorder —— His Meaſures are "broke—

" broke —— 'Twill be impoſſible for him to " ſerve you —— I thought he wou'd have " thrown me into Fits —— And that your " Majeſty ſhou'd ſtill think one Man ſo infi- " nitely preferable to the Reſt of your Peo- " ple, is to me —— Lawrd! ——

Thus with a Shrug of Submiſſive Aſtoniſh-ment ſhe ended her Remonſtrance with the ſame important Monoſyllable, that begun it, *viz.* —— *Lawrd!* What Reception it found may be imagin'd from the Frank Air of her Delivering it —— And this ſort of Behavi-our had now render'd her leſs agreeable to the Empreſs, whoſe every New Act of Bounty to her of late, only ſerv'd to wipe all the Former out of her Memory; yet was her Vanity ſo elevated that ſhe thought when ſhe had a Mind to any thing, her Merit had a Right to draw an Order upon her Miſtreſs's Indulgence— But to proceed.

Scarce had the Eloquent *Hautiſara* ended her Oration, when Word was brought, that *Fortunatus* deſir'd Admittance, which Inter-ruption, ſoon overcame the Diſguſt the Em-preſs cou'd hardly conceal at that Lady's Be-haviour —— The Approach of *Fortunatus* (whoſe ſecret Diſcontent plainly broke through his outward Reſpect) gave the Em-preſs Apprehenſions, that ev'n ſhook her Reſo-lution for the Support of *Arlus*, who, tho' ſhe knew meant as well to her Intereſt, as *Fortuna-tus*, yet he cou'd not then be of equal Impor-tance to it; the ſuperior Succeſſes of one ha-ving much more Influence on the People, than all the other's Viſible tho' leſs Glaring Virtues,

of

of which the Empreſs was ſo ſenſible, that we may yet doubt, whether *Fortunatus* ow'd his prevailing againſt him more to his Art, or his Intereſt: *Fortunatus* too was equally Conſcious of *Arlus*'s Intrinſick Merit to the Empreſs, and therefore was too Wiſe to attack him as others had done, by a fruitleſs Aſperſion of his Integrity, but did it by artfully Charging his Remonſtrance upon the unfortunate Neceſſity of her Affairs to Remove him: He therefore told her with what Reluctance he was reduc'd to offer a Thing, that he knew muſt be ſo hard and diſagreeable to her Inclinations, and tho' no Conſideration upon Earth could ever leſſen his real Zeal to ſerve her Majeſty, yet when the Means, the Power, and Baſis of his Service was deſtroy'd, 'twere but deceiving her to offer it, and it wou'd be then her Intereſt, under ſuch his Incapacity, to diſcharge him from his Commands, which without the ſure Support of thoſe People, who now had preſs'd him to this Extremity, it was demonſtrable he cou'd no longer pretend to Execute——— Then he farther begg'd leave, (not alas! as an Argument for her Compliance) but as he thought himſelf bound in Duty, to lay before her the Conſequences of his ſo unavoidable, tho' unwilling Reſignation— As firſt the Difficulties his Succeſſor muſt paſs in gaining ſuch Abſolutely Neceſſary Confidence, and Power from her Allies, as they had been pleas'd to Honour him with, and which their Natural Jealouſy (tho' a Superior Merit might be urg'd) wou'd not eaſily repoſe in another, of whom their pretended diſlike might be offer'd, as an Excuſe for their accepting a

Seperate

Seperate Peace, which wou'd not only Ruin the Trade, and Credit of the Nation, but leave the Enemy in a Formidable Condition of bringing the War Home to her own Doors, and Insulting her Crown with the Supported Claim of an Abjur'd Competitor—— Here the Empress, with a Sigh, interrupting him, said, "My Lord, "were I to part with you indeed, these Con-"sequences, I own, were unavoidable——— "But tell me——— am I—— am I reduc'd to "such a hard Necessity? Must I endure the "long Reproach of giving up—— The Refle-"ction's too Severe——— At this her Heart grew full, and threw her into a silent Pause, that spoke an inward Concern, which only such a Silence cou'd express: At length a little clearing up her Looks, and turning to *Fortunatus*, she thus proceeded—— "My Lord, I "think I am safe, because, I find, I am in your "Power; But I had rather now, methinks, "relie upon the Friend, than the Minister; Be "then sincerely all the First, and help me in "this Hardship! Suppose your self in my Di-"lemma, and tell me truly how you'd answer "what you have now so warmly press'd me to "Consider.

Fortunatus, who was Happy in the Art of Pleasing, even with a Refusal, having now succeeded to be himself her Judge, resolv'd at least to mingle Pity with his Sentence, and seeming touch'd with her Concern made this artful Answer———

" This gentle Reſignation, Madam, moves " me to a ſoft Submiſſion, that will undo you: " For, who that's Honour'd with ſo Generous " a Truſt can ever let his Heart be cool enough " to ſee the Danger of Obeying you? 'Tis im- " poſſible, thus engag'd, to pronounce againſt " your Wiſhes—— I am loſt, am vanquiſh'd " by your Concern—— and ſince your Peace " requires it—— Preſerve the Injur'd *Arlus* in " your Favour, and let me run the pleaſing " Riſque of my Obedience—— Thus, Ma- " dam, when Honour'd with the Name of " Friend, I muſt comply, and might at worſt " deſerve your Pardon for betraying you: But " then there is a waking Conſcience in ſeverer " Honour, that will be heard, that is not to be " ſoft'ned by the tend'reſt Sighs of Nature, " that chides me for this weak Submiſſion, and " bids my Virtue arm in your Defence——— " Madam, 'tis with the utmoſt Pain I mention " it—— but—— forgive the Harſhneſs of the " Word —— You muſt *abandon Arlus*, or thoſe " that only can Support you———

But here, in reverence to the ſecret Conflict of a Monarch's melting Heart, 'tis fit to cloſe the Scene by only adding, that in the ſilent Guſhing of a Tear ſhe Sign'd the long rejected Inſtrument of *Arlus*'s Diſmiſſion from his Office.

Thus theſe Jealous, Overbearing Men tore from their Sovereign's Sight the moſt Faithful, Vigilant, Diſintereſted, and (if it be Wiſdom to deſerve thoſe Epithets) I may ſay, Wiſeſt of her Miniſters.

Arlus (who yet was unacquainted with the Modern way of working up Tools, or Knaves, to Inſult their Sovereign with ſawcy Remonſtrances, upon her removing a Miniſter) receiv'd without a Murmur his Diſgrace; yet was not unattended in his Fall: Three of the moſt Conſiderable Offices (not then engroſs'd by the *Levellers*) being voluntarily reſign'd on that Occaſion; which Proofs of a Regard to *Arlus*, with the other Great, and Patient Merits that attended them, the Empreſs has ſince diſtinguiſh'd with Superior Marks of Honour.

And now the dreaded Rival of their Power remov'd, the *Quinquinvirate* thought this little World their own; they found the Reins of Government in their Hands, and by their furious Driving left us to gueſs, how far they had it in their Thoughts to overthrow the Power of their Sovereign: But before they ſet out, they conſider'd, that the late Honour done to *Arlus*, in the Empreſs's ſo viſible Reluctance to part with him, left him ſtill dangerous, and that the Inſult they had done him, won'd naturally revive her Inclination, on the firſt favourable Occaſion, to re-call him, which threw 'em into this prudent Reflection, *viz.* That tho' ('twas true) he was Remov'd,—— yet—— he was ſtill *Alive.*

They therefore laid hold of a Critical Accident, which, if well manag'd, they did not doubt might Juſtify their Proceedings paſt, and wiſely remove him from the World, and their future Fears for ever——— The Treaſonable Practices of a Clerk in *Arlus*'s Office have made his Story too Publick to need a particular Recital;

tal; but the conſummate Artifices us'd to involve *Arlus* himſelf in the Capital Infamy of being the Accomplice of his Guilt, deſerve a Monumental Record to the harden'd Memory of the Undertakers. Could the ſevereſt Jealouſy ſuppoſe a Wretch, that wou'd betray his Country to ſupply the Expences of a vicious Life, would not, to *ſave* that Life, and have his Wants reliev'd, as well confeſs another's Treaſon as his own? Or might not his Revenge provoke him (if in his Power) to produce ſome equal Proofs againſt *Arlus*, who had detected him? ——Truly no! The Wretch indeed at his Execution did ſubſcribe his Proteſtation of his Maſter's Innocence (*which by the way was Baſhfully ſtifled for ſome time*) but to be ſure he was put upon that by the *Loyaliſts*, who cunningly adviſ'd him to be hang'd, rather than humour the *Levellers* with a farther Diſcovery——And ſo this poor wheedled *Traytor*, it ſeems, dy'd a *Martyr* to his Fidelity: Yet this was to paſs upon the Multitude, this was the Leſſon impos'd on their mercenary Dependants to repeat in all publick Places, which indeed, among thinking Men, only ſerv'd to ſhew them as impotent as invidious in their Practices.

Arlus having ſurviv'd this mercileſs Storm, that blew ſo hard upon his Innocence, was now again at leiſure to meditate his Sovereign and his Country's Service: He knew the *Quinquinvirate*, who ow'd their chief Support to the ſeeming Intereſt of the Lady *Hautiſara* then in Favour, had built their Power on no durable Foundation, it being obvious to his Foreſight, that

that that Lady, in the Reſtleſneſs of her Pride and Folly, wou'd, like a giddy Girl, ſoon break the Baby ſhe had been ſo fond of, and ſtrip them to their naked Original.

The intractable *Hautiſara* now declining in her Luſtre, *Arlus* quickly obſerv'd the Lady *Montia* was the riſing Star, that wou'd ſucceed her, whoſe natural good Senſe and Complacency of Temper gain'd every Hour upon the Inclinations of the Empreſs. With this Lady then (who was related to him) he made a prudent Confidance, which perhaps ſometimes aſſiſted his ſecret and ſincere Endeavours for his Sovereign's Service: But the jealous *Hautiſara*, impatient of a Rival, ev'n in thoſe Favours ſhe was now grown too proud and lazy to deſerve, after ſeveral meer Woman's Marks of her ineffectual Spleen, reſolv'd to ſpring a Mine ſhould bury her for ever. To which end ſhe inſinuated to the *Quinquinvirate* (whoſe equal Fears of her needed but few Arguments to inflame them) that *Montia* had taken the Cards out of *Arlus*'s Hand, and was now playing on the Game he had been ſeemingly forc'd to give up: That in ſhort, if ſome ſudden Expedient was not found to remove her, ſhe could not promiſe ſhe ſhould be much longer in humour to ſupport them. Upon which her Learned Kinſman *Librarius* ſtood up, and (after working himſelf into a huge Paſſion) made a wonderful Speech, which ſagaciouſly ended in a clinching Motion, that the Empreſs ſhould be addreſs'd — "As well "in regard to her own Safety, as their humble "Will and Pleaſure, not to ſuffer any Servant, "whom they cou'd not abide, to ſtick a ſingle "Pin

" Pin about her Royal Perſon, for fear they " ſhould traiterouſly prick her.

This Loyal Addreſs (which is not the more modeſt for its being ridiculous) was carry'd *Nemine contradicente*; but the Empreſs, forewarn'd of it, was too far concern'd not to prevent the Inſult of its being publickly offer'd her; and therefore gently precaution'd them, that unleſs they made it appear more reaſonable, or neceſſary to the Good of the Nation, ſhe ſhould be oblig'd to reject it. Not but we muſt think the very private Propoſal gave her too juſt an Apprehenſion of their farther Inſolencies and incroaching Power, of which this blundering Inſtance was not dropt without another of much the ſame Species to ſucceed it: But now their infectious Preſumption had ſpread higher, even the Head of their Tainted Body, *Fortunatus* himſelf was changed with it, who throwing off his uſual Air of Softneſs, that never fail'd to meet Compliance from his Sovereign, ſeem'd to ſet himſelf in her Chair, and Magiſterially inſiſted on his Right of diſpoſing a Command, in oppoſition to the unqueſtion'd Merit of the Perſon, whom her peculiar Inclination (I had almoſt ſaid) recommended to it; which upon the Empreſs's not immediately giving up, he ſullenly left the Court, till he had reduc'd her by his oſtentatious Uneaſineſs to an equal Abatement of her Power, and to give it, by a mutual Conſent, to a third Perſon. This faithful Inſult offer'd to his Sovereign ſo endear'd the Hearty *Fortunatus* to the *Quinquinvirate*, and their Dependants, that they thought themſelves bound in arrogant Gratitude to

make

make him a Preſent of a large Limb of the Empreſs's Prerogative, *viz.* by procuring an irreſiſtible Addreſs to make him General for Life. This indeed had Mettle in it, and came very near up to the Gratitude of their Forefathers, who, becauſe they ſcorn'd to be beholden to any Man, made their General a Preſent of their Liberty, and afterwards created him *Abſolute Monarch* in the Nick-name of a *Protector*.— But upon feeling the Pulſes of their Party, our *Quinquinvirate* found their Project Impracticable.

Now tho' they found theſe large Strides had made their Power ſufficiently formidable at Court, yet they ſeem'd at a loſs for a publick Occaſion to aſſert it with equal Terror to the reſt of the Nation; which Occaſion Fortune ſoon after threw into their Hands, by giving them a Pretence of demanding Juſtice againſt a Prieſt for *High Faults and Misbehaviours*, "in preſuming in a Sermon to take "the Advantage of the yet unrepealed Laws "of the Land to inſult the Subjects Right of "Reſiſtance, by maliciouſly reviving the in-"convenient Doctrine of Paſſive Obedience "(in things lawful) to their Sovereign, *&c.*

"Another Article of his Charge was his "endeavouring to inſinuate, that ſome Per-"ſons then in high Stations and Places were "doing wrong things, *&c.* By which things being actually true, they prov'd, that he could mean only the Miniſters.———But that they could eaſily ſtand, ſince at the ſame time it gave them an Occaſion to let the World ſee, that whoever pretended to cenſure their Conduct,

duct, might as ſafely comb the Beard of a Lion. During the Trial this ſlaviſh Doctrine of Obedience, *&c.* was ſo valiantly Hack'd and Hew'd by their flaſhing Harangues, that a Stranger would have took them for meer Huſſars of Government, that were for plundering the Crown, and ſupporting themſelves with the Spoils of its Prerogative. Thus even in the Face of their Sovereign they aſſerted their Fellow-Subjects Right of reſiſting their Prince, and dutifully limited their implicite Obedience to their Miniſtration, wreſting even the Holy Scripture to their Tenets, by granting, while in their Hands, that *every Soul* ought to *be ſubject to the higher Power.* But this, it ſeems, according to *Tacitus*, is an old Piece of Policy,

> *Ut Imperium pervertant, Libertatem proferunt, cùm perverterunt, ipſam aggrediuntur.*

No wonder therefore, if, while theſe Principles were maintain'd with ſo menacing an Air, it ſhock'd ſeveral of the Nobles, to whoſe Honour the Sentence of this Criminal was referr'd: Who, tho' they were not ſtrong enough wholly to acquit him, prevail'd at leaſt to leſſen the Triumph of his Accuſers by the Moderation of his Puniſhment.

Here I can't omit the merry Blunder of the Mob on this Occaſion, who unfortunately contriv'd to get themſelves Paradoxically clapt into Priſon for their *Rebellious Diſobedience* in too warmly declaring round a Bone-fire for the Doctor and *Non-reſiſtance.* Another

Another thing too is worthy of equal Notice, which is (for the Devil shall have his Due), that some of the Learned Orators, whose Wit at the Trial had gallop'd before their Judgment, had it seems Modesty enough to geld the most mettlesome Part of their Speeches before they were printed, and have decently given them to the publick with more good Breeding than they were deliver'd: But I am well assur'd, that there is a sincere Edition of their Zeal (as it was taken hot from their Mouths) now in the Press, which will shew the World the fair and full Measure of their Eloquence and Temper.

And now let us consider the true Meaning of this mighty Bustle——Was it worth the postponing all the Business in the Nation, and imploying the whole Body of the Legislative Power for above twenty Days, in fighting a Drawn Battle of Opinions about *an insignificant Tool of a Party?* No sure, their own Confessions allow that was not all they propos'd by it: But to take this solemn and glorious Opportunity of insulting the Throne in Form of Law, to assert and enlarge the Bounds of the Subjects *Liberty*, by trampling down the antient Fences of the *Prerogative*, to terrify the quiet Part of the People, by shewing them, that even the Innocent were unsafe in their Displeasure. These indeed were Considerations not to be resisted, and to have slighted so critical a Season of pursuing them, might have encourag'd the Empress and her People to think, that no Set of Men in Authority could ever be bold enough to invade the Fundamen-

FINIS.